

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting notes – October 5, 2010

Chair: Tom McCubbins

Tom McCubbins was unable to attend. Rob Irwin opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Aric Lester, Hans Carota, Zach Mendes, Michelle Boercker, Mary Marshall, Tricia Bratcher, Debbie Spangler, Bill Graves, Michael Rogner, John Merz, Rob Irwin and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

SRCAF - Ellen Gentry announced that the SRCAF Hiring Committee completed interviews for the Manager position September 24. A final decision will be forthcoming.

Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT) - SRPT and Associated Students Adventure Outings are co-sponsoring a Sacramento River full moon float on Thursday, October 21, 2010. The float will cover a short stretch of the Sacramento River just outside of Chico, near Hamilton City. We will float downstream to Scotty's Landing, stopping for a break on one of the sandbars in between to watch the moon rise over the river. It will be a late afternoon and into evening event - starting at 4:00pm and ending at approximately 9:00 pm.

Activity Reports

DWR - Ellen read a report received from Scott Rice, DWR. CVFED began submitting Flood Risk Notifications earlier this month to all landowners receiving protection from SPFC features. More information and a map viewer for users to see the Levee Flood Protection Zone for their property can be found at www.water.ca.gov/myfloodrisk.

DWR is soliciting comments on its draft Flood Corridor Program Guidelines and the Proposal Solicitation Package for the Flood Corridor Program. More information and copies of the guidelines may be found at www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/news/. Public Workshops have been scheduled to answer any questions, facilitate discussions and elicit comments on the document:

Wednesday, October 13, 1-3:00PM, Resources Bldg. Auditorium, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento

Monday, October 18, 1-3:00PM, Red Bluff City Council Chambers, 555 Washington St., Red Bluff

CVMFP held its second round of Regional Management Actions Work Group Meetings earlier this month. Those groups are evaluating potential Management Actions to be considered in developing the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. A Progress Report will be available in November and a Valley Wide public forum is being planned to summarize the status and next steps.

The Non-Urban Levee Evaluation Program is continuing its geotechnical explorations along the crest of the Sacramento River west levees south of Colusa and will be initiating explorations at the landside toe of the Sacramento River west levees between Princeton and Colusa in October. Explorations will also be completed along the Colusa Basin Drain. The results of this effort will be documented in the Geotechnical Assessment Report for the Non-Urban Levee system in the Sacramento Valley.

Aric Lester, DWR, reported they are partnering with USFWS, USBR and DFG to conduct redd dewatering surveys from Keswick Dam (RM302) to Clear Creek (RM289.5). Pete Coombe previously reported to the TAC on the Didson surveys. A fall survey is expected to show how the population moves in and out of the river. Sturgeon head out in the fall/winter, and in high flows move out to the bay. Aric is working with UC Davis and USACE. Sturgeon have been tagged above GCID in the Sacramento River in hopes they will be detected in the Feather River. The Feather River Study funded and contracted with fisheries to catch and tag fish.

New Projects or Proposal Review

Battle Creek Wildlife Area (Tompkins Parcel) Riparian Restoration (PT 159) - Michael Rogner, River Partners, gave a report on the restoration plan for 80ac on the Battle Creek Wildlife Area and implementation of riparian restoration on 30ac identified in the plan. This is a mitigation project with DFG involving off-site monitoring, targeting wildlife species, several bird species common on feeder creeks and VELB. A restoration plan was submitted to DFG for acceptance. Details are available at: http://www.sacramentoriver.org/ProjectTrack/ProjectTrack_Details.aspx?var1=159.

John Merz suggested asking BLM and DFG to come to the TAC for a broad perspective, looking at system-wide processes that are occurring.

Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project - Mary Marshall, USBR, presented a handout and gave an update. They are working closely with landowners, stakeholders and the public in Shasta and Tehama counties on the north and south forks of Battle Creek. Battle Creek offers the geologic and hydrologic conditions to support the state and federally-listed spring-run Chinook salmon, winter-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. The project presents an opportunity to restore and enhance approximately 42 miles of anadromous fish habitat in Battle Creek and an additional 6 miles of habitat in its tributaries. Habitat restoration and enhancement would enable safe passage for, and the growth and recovery of naturally-produced anadromous

salmonids, while minimizing the loss of clean and renewable energy produced by the Pacific Gas Electric Company's Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project. Partnerships include: DOI Bureau of Reclamation (overall project management), NMFS, PG&E (managing FERC License Amendment process and operate and maintain facilities post construction), USFWS and DFG are managing Adaptive Management efforts. DWR has been involved as the preparer of project screen and ladder designs.

The project features removal of five hydropower diversion dams, installation of screens and ladders on three hydropower diversion dams, increases in flow releases, dedication of water diversion rights for instream purposes at dam removal sites, and elimination of mixing species between North Fork Battle Creek and South Fork Battle Creek. Phase 1A has been completed with the removal of Wildcat Diversion Dam, pipeline and canal system; installation of fish screen and fish ladder at Eagle Canyon Diversion Dam, cofferdam and bypass pipes installation, intersection work at Manton Rd., and access trail handrails and walkway improvements; North Creek Feeder Diversion Dam installation of fish screen and fish ladder, cofferdam and bypass pipes upstream of dam, new footbridge right abutment with new access road above.

For more information go to: www.usbr.gov/mp/battlecreek, or www.battle-creek.net.

Current Projects/Updates

California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program - Debbie Spangler, DWR, gave a project update. In 2009, the Legislature passed SBX7 6, which establishes, for the first time in CA, collaboration between local monitoring parties and DWR to collect groundwater elevations statewide that this information be made available to the public. SBX7 6 provides that: local parties may assume responsibility for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations; DWR work cooperatively with local monitoring entities to achieve monitoring programs that demonstrate seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations; DWR accept and review prospective monitoring entity submittals, then determine the designated monitoring entity, notify the monitoring entity and make that information available to the public; DWR perform groundwater elevation monitoring in basins where no local party has agreed to perform the monitoring functions; and if local parties (i.e., counties) do not volunteer to perform the groundwater monitoring functions, and DWR assumes those functions, then those parties become ineligible for water grants or loans from the state.

By January 1, notify DWR for designation designated; DWR will have 90 days to respond to the request. Notification includes contact info, specific authority, map of area and supporting documents. DWR will continue to monitor in basins where it is currently measuring groundwater elevations. Entities must still apply to be designated as the monitoring entity to maintain grant funding. All basins are evaluated for priority; the higher priority is addressed first. Monitoring and groundwater data will be made available for public information. Local entities are encouraged to continue data.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for 9:30-12Noon, November 2, at Willows City Hall. [This meeting was subsequently cancelled.]